



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

### California State Office

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June 9, 2004

**In Reply Refer To:**  
6840 (CA930)P

EMS TRANSMISSION: 6/9/04  
Information Bulletin **No. CA-2004-047**

**To:** Field Manager, Bishop

**From:** State Director

**Subject:** Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for the Fish Slough Milk-vetch **DD: 7/30/04**

On June 4, 2004, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a notice (*Federal Register* 69:31552-31569) proposing critical habitat for the Fish Slough milk-vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *piscinensis*). (See Attachment 1.) The proposed rule solicits information on several topics, including the reasons why any areas should or should not be designated as critical habitat and the potential economic impacts such designation may have on affected interests, particularly small entities. Of the 8,490 acres of proposed critical habitat for this species, 5,401 acres (all within the jurisdiction of the Bishop Field Office) are administered by BLM.

Please review the proposed rule, and associated map, and advise CA-930 (Attn: Ed Lorentzen) if you have comments or suggestions regarding the proposed critical habitat boundaries, or any other aspects of the proposed rule. The deadline for submitting comments to FWS is August 3, 2004. Please provide us with your comments, if any, in electronic format by the close of business July 30, 2004.

Now that critical habitat has been proposed for this species, the conference requirements of Section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR 402.10 are applicable to any BLM actions likely to cause the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. Additionally, the guidance in Manual Section 6840.06B1 calls for BLM to confer with FWS "... on any action that is likely to adversely affect a proposed species or proposed critical habitat." Any outstanding requests for formal consultation with FWS on the Fish Slough milk-vetch should be updated to include conference on proposed critical habitat.

Questions regarding this proposed rule may be directed to John Willoughby at 916-978-4638 or to Ed Lorentzen at (916) 978-4646.

Signed by:  
James Wesley Abbott  
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:  
Richard A. Erickson  
Records Management

Attachment

1 - Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for the Fish Slough Milk-vetch (18 pp.)

Distribution

WO-230, MS 204 LS (Attn: Peggy Olwell)